

INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT TASK FORCE

MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006 LITTLETON, NH

Members present:

Kurt Lucas, Littleton Regional Hospital, Jeanne Erickson, Speare Memorial Hospital; Chandra Engelbert, Weeks Medical Center, Adam Smith, Ross Ambulance, Alisa Butler, DHHS, Stacey Smith, DHHS, Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, John Sanders, The Memorial Hospital, Will Riley, North Conway Ambulance Service, Clay Odell, NHBEMS

- The group discussed previous work done by the IFT Task Force, and anecdotal evidence that there has been an improvement in the status of interfacility transport. One measure of this is less complaints that have been received over the past several months. It was pointed out, however that anecdotal evidence was insufficient and we would need to proceed with hard data collection.

The data collection effort has stalled. Clay will obtain the data collection instrument from Jonathan Dubey and distribute it to the group. If there are any suggestions for improvement those can be implemented. Following that the file will be sent out to each of the participating hospitals and members of our group will work with the individual hospitals to implement the data collection.

The revised period for data collection is December 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007.

- Alisa Butler introduced Stacey Smith, who would be taking on Alisa's old role. Alisa described several opportunities that she was aware of that could be helpful to EMS providers. She described "NH Train", a public health training site that would be available to EMS providers. The site is free to use and keeps track of education that the user accesses. We will look for more information on that.

The Rural Hospital Flex Program is supporting the NH Bureau of EMS Paramedic Mentor program. There are only a handful of people who expressed an interest in this program, but it is running and hopefully we will learn from it and improve participation in the future.

Rural Flex grants for NH will amount to \$440k this year. The emphasis is on linking quality data at the Critical Access Hospitals. Since EMS is working on similar projects there might be opportunities for EMS

- Adam Smith reported that Blue Cross of NH advised him that it decreased reimbursement rates for critical care transport to a rate below ALS rates. That is something the group should investigate.
- Jeanne Erickson discussed her attempts to secure someone to conduct a Critical Care Transport Paramedic Program. Speare Memorial was approved for a grant

under the NH Rural Hospital Flexibility grants help fund this course. The course is given through the University of Maryland – Baltimore County via contracts with regional educational facilities. For our area the contractor is Bob Hawkes at Southern Maine Community College. Despite multiple attempts to contact this person, this program has been unresponsive to her calls and emails. Jeanne is looking for suggestions on where to proceed.

- Also Kurt Lucas reminded Clay that we need to meet with the Local Government Center to get clarification of their policy regarding other providers being in the back of an ambulance insured by them. There appears to be inconsistency in what the organizations representatives say in different territories.
- At the next meeting of the IFT Task Force, the group will review the areas of concern and brainstorming session from the 2005 Interfacility Transport Summit as the Task Force moves forward.

The next meeting of the Interfacility Transport Task Force will be Tuesday October 24, 2006, from 9:30am to 11:30am (NOTE TIME CHANGE) at Littleton Regional Hospital. The IFT Task Force thanks Littleton Regional Hospital once again for their generous donation of meeting space and food to support this effort.